



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

**Environmental Center**  
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0424

## HB 1671 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

Statement for  
House Committee on  
Energy, Ecology and Environmental Protection  
Public Hearing - 6 March 1981

By  
Peter J. Rappa, Sea Grant  
Ray Tabata, Sea Grant  
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center

HB 1671 would enlarge the coverage of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) system to include areas in which the State has shown particular concern, the Special Management Areas (SMA) and prime agricultural land. The Environmental Center's 1978 report on the EIS System pointed out that both these provisions should be placed in the law. The statement on HB 1671 does not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

That these are areas of special environmental concern has been pointed out by the State through Legislation (Shoreline Protection Act of 1975) and recent pronouncement by the Governor and the Department of Agriculture. The authors of the 1978 EIS study pointed out that "the passage of the Shoreline Protection Act in 1975 should rationally have led to the enlargement of the shoreline areas covered by the EIS system to include SMA's which must extend at least 100 yards inland." The authors further reported that "it appears that there is little concern in the Department (of Agriculture) with minor actions proposed in land not in actual agricultural use, and that the major concern is with major actions proposed in prime agricultural lands.

For those SMA actions with potential significant environmental effects, EIS's would provide an opportunity for disclosing and reviewing environmental concerns. The information on impacts and alternatives, would be very useful to SMA authorities in reviewing applications and determining special conditions necessary. As many shoreline areas within the existing SMA are already subject to EIS requirements (conservation lands, state/county lands, Waikiki-Diamond Head, etc.), this amendment would assure that all SMA's are consistently subject to environmental review procedures and public involvement.